

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor : Yuta NAKAYA, et al.
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Examiner : Nhan T. Le
Group Art Unit : 2618

February 12, 2008

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

S I R:

In order to comply with discretionary regulations 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98, attached hereto is a copy of Form PTO-1449 and copies of the non-US documents (if any) listed thereon. These documents contain information which the Examiner may consider to be important in deciding whether to issue a patent in the instant application.

For documents written in a language other than English, English language abstracts and/or explanations are annexed thereto explaining relevancy in accordance with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(3).

Also attached is a Notice of Reason for Rejection with translation, dated December 25, 2007, for the corresponding Japanese Patent Application JP 2003-004351. All of the documents listed in Form PTO-1449 appear in the Notice of Reason for Rejection.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR 1.56 as an Examiner might consider any cited document important in deciding whether to allow the application to issue as a patent, but the citation of each document is not to be construed as an admission that such document is necessarily relevant or prior art. No representation is intended that the cited documents represent the results of a complete search, and it is anticipated that the Examiner in the normal course of examination, will make an independent search and will determine the best prior art consistent with 37 CFR 1.104 (a), and in the course of such search will review for relevance every document cited on the attached form even if not initialed.

As this statement is being filed after the issuance of a Notice of Allowance but before payment of the Issue Fee, a fee of \$180.00 for submission of this document should be charged to Deposit Account number 50-1290 in accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(d) and 1.17(p) along with a statement in compliance with 37 CFR 1.97(e). Each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, not more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement.

Early and favorable consideration is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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